



MARKET HARBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

ON THE
Health and Sanitary State
of the District, for the Year

1925,

BY

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AND

B. G. ELLIOTT, A.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

REPORT.



To the Market Harborough Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1925, together with that of your Sanitary Inspector.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	... ... ... ... ...	4,787 acres.
Population—		
Census, 1921	... ... ... ...	8,620
Estimated, 1925	... ... ... ...	8,837
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)		2,018
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	... ... ... ...	2,083
Rateable Value	... ... ... ...	£62,014
Sum represented by a penny rate		£190

The district is an urban one, comprising the parishes of Market Harborough, Great and Little Bowden, situated in the Welland Valley, on the borders of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. The occupation of the inhabitants includes the manufacture of corsets, dried foods, rubber goods, hosiery, type, accumulators, glue, boots, etc.; there is a large cattle market in the town, which serves the surrounding rural districts. There are no trades deleterious to health other than a small amount of lead working.

Vital Statistics.—There has been a large drop in the number of births this year from 148 last year to 117, the birth rate per 1,000 population being 13.2 this year compared with an average of 17.7. The death rate remains much as usual, 96 deaths were registered, a rate of 10.7 per 1,000. The infant mortality rate, which has always been well below the average in this district, is the lowest for many years, only two deaths were registered, a rate of only 17 per 1,000 births (the rate for England and Wales is 75).

		M.	F.	Total.	
<i>Births</i>	{ legitimate	52	58	110	{ Birth Rate 13.2
	{ illegitimate	3	4	7	
<i>Deaths (all ages)</i>	43	53	93	Death Rate 10.7	
<i>Deaths under one year.</i>	{ legitimate. ... 0	2	2	{ Infant Mortality Rate 17.1	
	{ illegitimate ... 0	0	0		
<i>Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth</i>	1				
<i>Deaths from Measles</i>	1				
,, , " Whooping Cough"	2				
,, , " Diarrhoea"	0				

Birth and death rates compared with rates for England and Wales :

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.		Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	
England and Wales 1925	18.3		12.2		75
Mkt. Harboro' 1925	Number 117	Rate 13.2	Number 96	Rate 10.7	Number 2 Rate 17.1
Mkt. Harboro' average for 1920—1924	155	17.7	95	10.8	6 41.3

Amongst the causes of death, at all ages, were tuberculosis 8, cancer 12, heart disease 14, bronchitis 8, pneumonia 7.

Poor Law Relief.—This amounted to £837 0s. 4d. for the year.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

- (a) *Hospitals*—(1) Tuberculosis—None.
- (2) Maternity—None.
- (3) Children—None.
- (4) Fever—None.
- (5) Small Pox—None.
- (6) Other : The Cottage Hospital (14 beds), for medical and surgical cases and occasional maternity cases, is supported by voluntary contributions, and is not subsidised by the local authority. Infectious fevers are catered for by the County Council Fever Hospital Scheme to which the local authorities contribute according to population.

- (b) *Institutions* for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children—None in the district.
- (c) *Ambulance* (a) Infectious cases—By County Council fever hospital scheme.
 (b) Non-infectious cases—Voluntary brigade of St. John Ambulance with a good motor ambulance.
- (d) *Clinics and Treatment Centres*.—None in the district.
- (e) *Public Health Officers*:

	Whole or Part Time.	Salary	Qualifications.
1. Medical Officer of Health	Part	Yes	M.A., M.D.
2. Sanitary Inspector ...	Whole	Yes	A.R.S.I. and Meat Certificate
3. Health Visitor	Whole	Yes	C.M.B. Queen's Certificate. Fully Trained Nurse.
4. Midwives (2)	Part	Subsidy	C.M.B.

- (f) *Nursing*.—The Cottage Hospital provides a trained District Nurse. The local authority supplies extra Nurses in case of large epidemics, but does not subsidise the regular Nurse.
- (g) *Midwives*.—Three C.M.B. Midwives practice in the area, two of whom receive a subsidy from the local authority.
- (h) *Chemical Work*.—Analyses are conducted when requested at the County Council Laboratories.

- (i) *Legislation in Force*.—Adoptive Acts, Regulations, Byelaws, etc., in force in the District :—

Date at which became opera- tive.	
28th June, 1879	Public Health Act, 1875, adopted by resolution.
29th Oct., 1890	Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1890.
7th Feb., 1891	Public Health Act Amendment Act 1890. Parts II., III., and IV.
„ „ „	Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890. Sections 4—20 inclusive.
27th Feb., 1894	Private Street Works Act, 1892.

7th May, 1895	Baths and Wash-houses Acts, 1846—1882.
12th Oct., 1908	Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Parts II., V., VI. and X., and certain Sections in parts III. and IV.
11th June, 1909	Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Sections 79, 80, 81, 86 of part VII. and parts VIII and IX.
31st May, 1887	Regulations under Dairies and Cowsheds Order, 1885.
3rd June, 1890	Regulations relating to Water-works.
4th Jan., 1881	Bye-laws relating to Common Lodging Houses.
„ „ „	Bye-laws relating to Nuisances arising from snow, filth, etc., keeping of animals.
24th May, 1893	Byelaws made under Part II of Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
2nd Sept., 1893	Bye-laws relating to Whirligigs and Swings, and Fire-arms in Shooting Ranges and Galleries.
14th Oct., 1898	Bye-laws relating to Public Baths.
5th Feb., 1901	„ „ „ Cemeteries.
20th July, 1903	„ „ „ Markets.
23rd April, 1908	„ „ „ Pleasure Grounds.
5th May, 1925	„ „ „ Slaughter-houses.
15th „ „	„ „ „ New Street and Build- ings.
18th „ „ „ „ „	Public Sanitary Con- veniences.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water—The water is derived from a bed of rock—one of the upper limestone beds of the lower lias—and from beds of drift gravel, in the parishes of Husbands Bosworth and North Kilworth, Leicestershire, being collected by means of wells and pipes from whence it flows by gravitation a distance of 8 miles to Market Harborough. Samples of the water have been analysed on four occasions during the year and found to be highly satisfactory. The supply is constant and serves about 96 per cent. of the dwelling-houses in the Urban District, the remainder (92 houses) being supplied by private wells, which have all been examined during the year and found to be free from pollution.

Rivers and Streams.—One complaint was received as to alleged pollution of the River Welland, and upon the attention of the firm concerned being drawn to the matter, the defect was remedied.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The district is sewered on the water carriage system, which has been maintained in efficient order. The sewage flows by gravitation to the disposal works, situated some two miles to the east of the town, where it is treated by sedimentation tanks and broad irrigation on some 100 acres of land. An entirely separate system deals with the storm water drainage.

Closet Accommodation.—With the exception of three privies and eight pail closets, mainly situated at a considerable distance from the town sewerage system, the whole of the sanitary accommodation consists of water closets numbering approximately 2,600. A large proportion of the water closets have flushing cisterns, but there still remain 750 which are hand-flushed.

Scavenging.—There are 30 ash pits in the District, and these are emptied every three months. The remainder of the provision for storage of house refuse consists of portable receptacles, which are emptied weekly. The house refuse, after collection, is at present tipped on low-lying land, but owing to the nearness of newly-erected dwellings, the Council are considering other means of disposal. The rat-catcher employed by the Council to keep the rats down at the refuse tip reports having killed 332 rats during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections :

Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	281
Drains, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	318
Common Lodging-house	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Workshops, Workplaces, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	739
Tripe, Fried Fish, etc., Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Food Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	614
Animal Keeping Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Petrol and Carbide Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Tents, Vans, and Fairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Hide, Skin and Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Other Premises (not included above)	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Secondary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	281

Sundry Items :

Complaints Investigated ...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Smoke Tests to Drains ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Drains Laid and Passed ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Samples of Town Water Analysed ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Well „ „	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ „ „ tested (Nessler's)	...	...	...	...	...	43
Informal Notices Served ...	...	...	...	...	...	589
Statutory „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	—

Dwelling-houses :

Roofs Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rainwater Fittings Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Staircases Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rooms : Plaster Repaired, Distempered, Papered, etc						144
Grates, etc., Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Doors and Windows Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Coppers Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Yard Paving Repaired or Relaid ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Passage „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	3
House Demolished ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
External Brickwork Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other House Defects Remedied ...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Drainage.

Lengths of Drain Relaid ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Obstructions Removed from Drains ...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Inspection Chambers Constructed or Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rainwater Pipes cut off from Drain ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ Cisterns cleaned out ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ventilators Repaired or New Erected ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Closets Cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New Gullies Fixed ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New Water Closets Constructed ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Closets Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other Repairs to Drains and Fittings ...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Workshops, Workplaces, etc.

Rooms Cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sanitary Conveniences Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Bakehouses :

Limewashing Carried Out ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Internal Repairs ...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Cowsheds and Dairies :

Lime-washing Carried Out	...	...	...	...	11
Manure Removed	...	...	...	...	5
Floors, Utensils, etc., Cleansed	...	...	...	...	8
Filter Provided	...	...	...	...	1
New Churn Room Erected	...	...	...	...	1

Slaughter-houses

Lime-washing Carried Out	...	...	...	...	3
Yard Surfaces Cleansed and Manure Removed	...	...	...	...	2
Offal Removed	...	...	...	...	3
Drains Unstopped	...	...	...	...	3
Inflating Pumps Provided	...	...	...	...	5
Cleansing not carried out after Slaughter	...	...	...	...	3
Other Defects Remedied	...	...	...	...	3

Food Shops, Stalls and Stores :

Cleansing Carried Out	...	...	...	...	3
Stalls Enclosed and Name, etc., of Vendor Exhibited	...	...	...	...	6
Shop Fronts Closed	...	...	...	...	12
Other Defects Remedied	...	...	...	...	10

Hackney Carriages :

Fire Extinguishers Provided	...	...	...	...	3
Emergency Door Altered	...	...	...	...	4
Obstructions to Emergency Door Removed	...	...	...	...	2
Instructions Posted	...	...	...	...	4
Other Contraventions attended to	...	...	...	...	3

Miscellaneous Nuisances Abated :

Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	21
Dangerous Structures Made Safe	...	...	...	...	1
Chimney Stacks and Pots Made Safe	...	...	...	...	7
Ashbins Provided	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding of House Abated	...	...	...	...	4
Infestation of Rats and Mice dealt with	...	...	...	...	7
Filthy and Verminous Houses Stoved	...	...	...	...	12
Ashpit Abolished	...	...	...	...	1
Water Fittings Repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances from Animal Keeping Abated	...	...	...	...	4
House Rooms Fumigated	...	...	...	...	55
Bedding, etc., Steam Disinfected	...	...	...	...	19
,, Destroyed	...	...	...	...	8
Defects remedied at other Premises (not included above)	...	...	...	...	34

Smoke Abatement.—No complaints have been received during the year as to nuisance arising from smoke from factory chimneys.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.—No Bye-laws are yet in force other than those mentioned under the heading “Legislation in Force.” The Council have decided to make Bye-laws for the regulation of the following offensive trades, *i.e.*, those of a blood-boiler and blood-drier, bone-boiler, fellmonger, tanner and leather-dresser; soap-boiler; tallow-melter, fat-melter, and fat-extractor; tripe-boiler; glue-maker and size-maker; gut-scraper; rag and bone dealer; and fish-frier. There are no underground sleeping rooms in the district.

Other sanitary conditions requiring notice.—Nil.

Schools.—The Schools comprise five Public Elementary, one County Secondary, and four small Private Schools. The sanitary conditions are good throughout; the water supply is from the town mains. No School closure was necessary during the year.

HOUSING.

(I.)—*General Housing Conditions in the Area :*

- (1) The general Housing conditions are good.
- (2) (a) There is an estimated shortage of upwards of 50 houses, excluding those required to replace insanitary property.
- (b) To meet the demand, the Council have erected 92 houses under the Housing and Town Planning Act 1919, and State Assistance has been granted in respect of 109 houses, 67 of which have been completed. The Council now have under consideration a scheme for the erection of 36 houses for letting under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924. The total number of houses erected since the War now stands at 199.
- (3) As far as can be anticipated, the population is likely to increase rather than decrease.

(II.)—*Overcrowding :*

- (1) Extent : 30 cases, and there are in addition more than 60 cases of two families living in one house.
- (2) Causes : Shortage of houses, the demand being particularly for houses with ample bedroom accommodation at a low rental.
- (3) Measures taken or contemplated : See item (I) (2) (b) above.
- (4) Cases abated during 1925 : Three became tenants of Council houses, and one purchased a house.

(III.)—*Fitness of Houses.*

- (1) (a) General standard : Good.
- (b) Defects in unfit houses : Lack of airspace, no sunlight, no through ventilation, dampness, disrepair, and general dilapidated condition.
- (c) Reason for defective conditions : In certain cases insanitary conditions are due to negligence on the owner's or tenant's part, but in many cases the houses are old and worn out, and their type, construction and situation do not warrant improvement. There are upwards of a hundred such houses which should be demolished when circumstances permit.
- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses, under :
 - (a) Public Health Acts : Nuisances and defects remedied on complaint or discovery.
 - (b) Housing Acts : Demolition of unfit property to be considered when sufficient new houses erected.
- (3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness :—
 Difficulty is experienced with property which has been allowed to fall in a state of disrepair over a period of years, or where insanitary conditions are the result of misuse by the tenant or lack of funds on the owner's part. Periodical visits and the carrying out of a section of the repairs each year will gradually render the houses fit with the minimum of hardship to the owner.
- (4) Water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal :—Conditions as regards water supply and closet accommodation are good and under frequent observation. The question of refuse disposal is under consideration by the Council.

(IV.)—*Unhealthy Areas :*

No complaints have been received or representations made in regard to unhealthy areas.

(V.)—*Bye-laws relating to houses, houses let in lodgings, and tents, vans, sheds, etc. :—*

- (1) Bye-laws relating to the above have not been adopted.
- (2) The Council propose to adopt bye-laws relating to tents, vans, sheds, etc., but bye-laws relating to houses and houses let in lodgings are not considered necessary at present.

(VI.)—*General and Miscellaneous :—*

Nil.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :								—
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

1. *Unfit Dwelling-houses* :—

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	281
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	42
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	47
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	93

2. *Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices* :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	112
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers* Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply* :—

The milk supply is wholesome and of a very fair standard of purity.

- (i) No action was found necessary as to tuberculous milk.
- (ii) No applications were received for the sale of graded milk.
- (iii) It was not found necessary to refuse or revoke registration of any retailer.
- (iv) 30 samples of milk were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Visits were made and instructions given in respect of those samples which were below standard through want of cleanliness, and later samples shewed great improvement.

(b) *Meat* :—

- (i) Notice is given by the Butchers in respect of fixed hours of slaughter or for each occasion, and arrangements are made for the meat to be inspected as far as possible before it leaves the slaughter-houses. Notification by the Butcher of the presence of disease in any carcase is required by the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924. The Council do not undertake to provide for the marking of meat. Condemned meat is disposed of in an incinerator at the Council's sewage farm.
- (ii) Meat shops have their windows closed when meat is exposed for sale, and no meat is hung outside the shops. Stalls are covered in at the sides, back and top, to protect the meat as far as possible from contamination, and the name and address of the vendor is exhibited. Stores and vehicles are required to be kept in a cleanly condition.
- (iii) The Council own 3 slaughter-houses, which are let to 4 butchers.

Number of Slaughter-houses.

	In 1920,	In January 1925,	In December 1925,
Registered	3	3	3
Licensed	2	3	3

(c) *Other Foods* :—

Fish and other food shops and stalls are visited periodically. There are 14 bakehouses, which are inspected twice a year, and these have been maintained in a cleanly condition.

(d) *Food Poisoning* :—Nil.

Food condemned :—

1,022	lbs. home killed beef.
665	„ „ „ mutton.
110	„ „ „ pork.
100	„ imported beef.
56	„ imported loins.
10	„ bacon.
5 cwt. 22	„ hams.
6	„ tongue (tinned).
4 st. 11½	„ fish.
8	boxes tomatoes.
½ lb.	apples.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The district has been singularly free from infectious disease during the year; two cases of scarlet fever, two erysipelas, and one each encephalitis and puerperal fever were reported, as well as 21 of pneumonia. Pathological and bacteriological examinations are made in the County Council Laboratory. The Schick and Dick tests have not been in use. No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health, either during the year or the previous five years, but a great number of vaccinations were performed this year by the Public Vaccinators and private Doctors owing to a considerable outbreak of small-pox in the vicinity. Of the non-notifiable infectious diseases there were a large number of cases of a very mild type of German measles in the autumn, a few cases of mumps and chicken-pox in the spring, and considerable epidemics of influenza in the spring and autumn. Disinfection of infected articles is carried out in the Council's steam disinfecter; infected premises are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector immediately the source of infection is removed—formalin disinfection is used.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.		Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths (1925).
	1925.	Total for previous 5 years.	1925.	Total for previous 5 years.	
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2	46	—	8	—
Diphtheria ...	—	26	—	2	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	21	18	?	?	7
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	1	—	1

Tuberculosis.—Ten pulmonary cases have been notified this

year. This is below the average, which for the previous ten years is 14.5.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary,		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
10—15	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	2	1	1	—	2	—	—
20—25	—	2	—	1	1	3	1	1
25—35	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	1
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	6	2	2	2	6	1	2
Average for previous 4 years	4.2	8	2.7	2.5	2.5	4.8	.25	1.7

No case of tuberculosis arose in any person employed in the milk trade.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Council employ one whole-time health visitor who visits all infants, from birth until school age, she also assists the Midwives in antenatal visiting the Midwives referring any abnormal antenatal conditions to her, and so to the Infant Welfare Centre. The Infant Welfare Centre is open every week (Wednesdays), and the Medical Officer attends every other week to see infants and expectant mothers. The centre is conducted by a Lay Committee of ladies, assisted by the Health Visitor and the Medical Officer; the expenses are borne by the local authority. Antenatal work at the Centre is increasing.

One case of puerperal fever occurred during the year, the average incidence is only one case in every three or four years: apart from an epidemic of mild German measles, there has been very little infantile epidemic disease. No case of ophthalmic neonatorum occurred.

HEALTH VISITOR'S STATISTICS.

First visits to new births	...	...	...	...	95
Total visits to Infants	...	...	...	...	4,456
Antenatal visits (by the Health Visitor)	...	...	...	...	137
Attendances at Centre :					
Mothers and Babies	...	...	...	...	2,847
Antenatal	...	...	...	...	31

The infant mortality is highly satisfactory ; this year the rate is only 14.5, which is our lowest on record, the average rate for the previous 10 years is 46.8, which is about half of that for England and Wales generally. The Notification of Births Act was adopted in 1910, and a Health Visitor (part time) appointed ; for the five years previous to 1910 the average rate was 81.

BERNARD G. ELLIOTT,
Sanitary Inspector.

CHARLES T. SCOTT,
Medical Officer of Health.

4th May, 1926.

